Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on Page 7, lines 7-21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIGURE 2 is a simplified block diagram of a distributed processing system 20 22 set in a telecommunications environment 20. In particular, system 20 22 is an integrated media switching platform. System 20 22 includes work originators 10, which are multi-service fabric (MSF) 24 and signaling gateways (SGW) 26. System 20 22 also includes work performers 12, which are multi-service controllers (MSC) 30 coupled to work originators 10 via networks, network servers and/or network switches 28. Network servers 28 may be Ethernet switches, for example. Work originators 10 interface with public switched telephone network (PSTN) 32, asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) network 34, customer premises equipment (CPE) 32 such as a private branch exchange (PBX) 36, integrated digital loop carrier (IDLC) 38, simple network management protocol (SNMP) network management system (NMS) 40, user interface (I/F) 42, and other network nodes. System 22 may also interface with an SS7 network 44. As voice data calls are being originated, work originators 10 select a work performer 12 to handle the call based on its current work load. The work load is distributed so that the work performers all perform at substantially the same percentage of each processor's full capacity.